



ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08933-

May 10, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madame Leader:

Johnson & Johnson is a leading diversified global healthcare manufacturing company, and provider of related services, with a deep commitment to improving the lives and healthcare of people throughout the world. An important component of the company's ability to thrive in the coming years, and thus advance our mission, is access to free and open markets.

Accordingly, Johnson & Johnson is deeply committed to Congressional passage of the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement ("DR-CAFTA"). The DR-CAFTA is a significant trade agreement that offers important economic benefits to the United States and the Central American region, as well as promoting U.S. foreign policy objectives of political stability, legal transparency and democratic reforms in the region. The agreement reaffirms the Doha WTO Ministerial declaration that gives developing countries the right to decide what constitutes a health emergency and to issue compulsory licenses to produce drugs needed to fight public health problems.

In addition, the agreement will result in meaningful market opening that will benefit the U.S. healthcare industry and Johnson & Johnson in particular. For example, 98% of U.S. medical device exports to the Dominican Republic and Central America will receive immediate duty-free treatment upon implementation of the trade agreement. Currently, our exports to the region face tariffs as high as 20%.

In addition, the DR-CAFTA will strengthen the intellectual property protections for our products in the region. It should be noted that DR-CAFTA's data protection terms are similar to or less than protections in other countries. Virtually every OECD country

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provides data protection. While the US protects data for 5 years, the EU protects data for 6-10 years. Stronger patent and data protection will increase the willingness of pharmaceutical companies to release innovative drugs in those countries – increasing, rather than decreasing, the availability of medicines. Data protection will provide an incentive to launch innovative drugs in Central American countries that would otherwise have no access to the newest and most innovative medicines. History shows that developing countries that have instituted strong IP regimes have improved their economies and their access to new medicines.

The DR-CAFTA, I believe, will not only open new markets for our industry, but will enable U.S. pharmaceutical companies to better serve the health care needs of the people of the Dominican Republic and Central America. I urge you and your colleagues to support Congressional passage of the DR-CAFTA. Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William C. Weldon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William C. Weldon
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer